

## **QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGES**

### **BAR MEMBERSHIP**

To be qualified for appointment as United States Bankruptcy Judge, a nominee must be a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of at least one state, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and a member in good standing of every other bar of which the nominee is a member.

### **EXPERIENCE AS AN ATTORNEY**

To be qualified for appointment, unless the court of appeals determines that special conditions exist, a nominee must have engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years. The court of appeals may consider as substitute experience for the active practice of law any of the following, or any combination thereof:

- (1) Judge of a state court of record or other state judicial officer;
- (2) United States magistrate judge, referee in bankruptcy, bankruptcy judge, or other federal judicial officer;
- (3) Attorney for federal or state agencies;
- (4) Law clerk to any judge or judicial officer (limited to two years);
- (5) Other legal experience suitable as a substitute in the opinion of a majority of the circuit judges

### **PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES**

To be qualified for appointment the nominee must:

- (1) possess, and have a reputation for, integrity and good character;
- (2) possess, and have demonstrated, a commitment to equal justice under law;
- (3) be of sound mental and physical health sufficient to perform the essential duties of the office;
- (4) possess, and have demonstrated, outstanding legal ability and competence; and
- (5) indicate by demeanor, character, and personality that the nominee would exhibit judicial temperament if appointed.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO JUDGES**

At the time of the initial appointment, a nominee must not be related by blood or marriage to a judge of the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, to a judge who is a member of the Tenth Circuit Judicial Council, or to a judge of the United States District Court in the district where the vacancy is, within the degrees specified in 28 U.S.C. § 458.